

I extend my sincere sympathies to Ms. Pugh's three children, Bud, Kathy, and Ken, her six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and to the extended Pugh family and friends. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join us to honor this fearless advocate.

ELIAS VAUGHNS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Elias Vaughns for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Elias Vaughns is a 6th grader at Pinnacle Charter School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Elias Vaughns is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Elias Vaughns for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA HIGH-SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, as an avid basketball player, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the exceptional achievements of all of the high-school basketball players in Northwest Indiana this past year, who safely showed up and put in the effort during the challenges of this health pandemic. I also want to recognize the following high-school basketball programs from Indiana's First Congressional District who represented our region during Semi-State and beyond this past season. Those teams include the Crown Point women's team, the Gary West Side men's team, and the Kouts men's team.

First, congratulations to the Lady Bulldogs of the Crown Point High School women's basketball team who won the Indiana High School Athletic Association's 4A State Championship on February 27, 2021. Special recognition also to Coach Chris Seibert who was appropriately named the 2021 Girls Basketball Coach of the Year by our leading local newspapers, the Post-Tribune and the Northwest Indiana Times, and also Jessica Carrothers who was named the Northwest Indiana Times 2021 Girls Basketball Player of the Year. I am inspired by the camaraderie of their team and the demonstration of how their hard-work has truly paid off.

Additionally, congratulations to the Gary West Side High School men's basketball team

who won their Regional championship game to advance to Indiana's Class 4A Semi-State on March 20, 2021. The Cougars fought their way for every second, taking the game to overtime where they lost by a mere five points. I applaud Coach Chris Buggs, his coaching staff, and the men who gave it their all to the very end.

And I also congratulate the Kouts High School men's basketball team for winning the Semi-State Championship for the first time in the school's history. The Mustangs competed in the IHSAA Class 1A State Tournament on April 3, 2021, and ended their season with an overall record of 29-3. I applaud Coach Kevin Duzan and these young men for their successful season and the legacy they have left.

These truly remarkable teams achieved great success during this very challenging year. For their skill, tremendous hard work, dedication to the game, and for representing our region, these outstanding young athletes deserve to be recognized and congratulated for their incredible seasons.

Madam Speaker, please join me again in congratulating our basketball players on their achievements and for making all of Northwest Indiana and their schools, families, and communities so very proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I missed one vote on Friday, February 26, 2021 and one vote on March 10, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote Number 46 (Ordering the Previous Question): YES; and Roll Call Vote Number 71 (Motion to Adjourn): NO.

ANABEL MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anabel Martinez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Anabel Martinez is an 11th grader at Northglenn High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anabel Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anabel Martinez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE BREWER FOR HER APPOINTMENT TO THE ONESTAR NATIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Brewer for her appointment by Governor Abbott to the prestigious OneStar National Service Commission. The Commission actively seeks out opportunities for Texas volunteers and charitable organizations to engage and connect with one another, and accelerates their impact on local communities. Furthermore, OneStar manages and operates the Rebuild Texas Fund, an organization dedicated to assisting Texans who are still feeling the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey.

Michelle's time and experience with Hardin County Strong as Disaster Recovery Director has more than prepared her for this role. Over her past four years as director, Michelle was fundamental in helping her community recover from Hurricane Harvey, and she was able to use critical connections, resources, and her vast wealth of knowledge to bring desperately needed assistance to Hardin County in an expedited manner.

The most important duty of every public servant is giving back to the community they serve. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor my friend, Michelle Brewer, for her work experience and time in Hardin County that demonstrate she more than exceeds this expectation. I cannot think of an individual better suited for this position.

RECOGNIZING WWII VETERAN LEONARD CROFFORD ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Leonard Crofford, who turns 100 years old today. Born on April 15th, 1921 and raised in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Leonard met the love of his life, Rosaline (Rosie), when he was 15, and they got married shortly before he joined the Navy two years later. He first served in the U.S. Navy at Wheeler Army Airfield near Pearl Harbor in 1939. Leonard was just 15 miles away when Japan launched its December 7, 1941 attack on the base, throwing him from his bunk due to the aftershock from a bomb blast. Two years later, he joined the U.S. Army, spending most of his service overseas as a mechanic and teaching other soldiers how to repair tanks. In 1945, he was honorably discharged as a Master Sergeant. On October 6, 1945, Leonard married Rosie in Hammond, Indiana; and together they raised five children: Ronnie, Leonard, Diane, Connie, and Sharon. Forty years ago, Leonard and Rosie moved to Thompsonville, Illinois, spending the remainder of their remarkable 75-year marriage together, until Rosie passed away at the age of 97 on February 22, 2020. Leonard has carried on the traditions they shared, like attending Parish Church and gardening. Every